

# IDNR RESOURCE MANUAL

Compiled by: The Division of Outdoor Recreation

## **Grant Resources and Funding Opportunities in the Department of Natural Resources (Listed by Division)**

### **Division of Outdoor Recreation**

#### **Hometown Indiana**

The Hometown Indiana program is a state matching financial assistance program, which provides grants for 50% of the cost of land acquisition and/or development of recreation sites and facilities. Eligible projects include land acquisition and/or facility construction or renovation. Both indoor and outdoor recreation facilities are eligible for funding assistance. In order to be eligible for participation in the park and recreation component of the Hometown Indiana program, the applicant must be a municipal corporation and have an approved 5-year park and recreation master plan.

#### **Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund**

The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund is a state matching financial assistance program that provides grants for 80% of the cost of natural/recreational projects, including land acquisition and/or facility enhancement for conservation and recreational development along the historical transportation corridor of the Wabash River. Legally established park and recreation boards in the 19 counties that lie along the Wabash River corridor and not-for-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status are eligible for funding.

#### **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal financial assistance program which provides matching grants for 50% of the cost of land acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities. Funds for this program come primarily from federal off-shore oil lease receipts. The program is administered at the federal level by the National Park Service (NPS), but is operated at the state level by the DNR. Only legally established park boards with an approved 5-year park and recreation master plan are eligible to participate.

#### **Recreational Trails Program**

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal financial assistance program which provides grants for 80% of the cost of land acquisition and/or development of multi-use recreational trail projects. Both motorized and non-motorized projects are eligible. Funds for this program are made available to Indiana from the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21). The program is administered at the federal level by the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), but is operated at the state level by the DNR. All units of government and not-for-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status are eligible to participate.

### Indiana Waters

The Indiana Waters program is a federal financial assistance program which provides grants for up to 50-75% of the cost of development of fishing and boating access sites and facilities. Funds for this program come from Indiana's share of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program (commonly called the Dingell-Johnson program for its congressional authors). The program is administered at the federal level by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but is operated at the state level by the DNR. Only legally established park and recreation boards are eligible for funding assistance.

### Shooting Range

The Shooting Range program is a federal financial assistance program which provides grants for 50-75% of the cost of development of rifle, handgun, shotgun, and archery facilities. Funds for this program come from Indiana's share of the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration program (commonly called the Pittman-Robertson program for its congressional authors). The program is administered at the federal level by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but is operated at the state level by the DNR. Units of government and not-for-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status are eligible to participate.

For more information on any of these grant programs (including project eligibility, current funding levels, and application procedures) contact the grants staff of the Division of Outdoor Recreation at (317) 232-4070 or visit [www.state.in.us/dnr/outdoor](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/outdoor).

## Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

### Historic Preservation Fund

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is a federal financial assistance program which provides matching grants for 50% of the cost of architectural and historical, archaeological, and acquisition and development (rehabilitation of historic buildings) projects to aid the state in meeting its goals for cultural resource management. Surveys of historic sites and structures and archaeological sites are eligible for 70% matching assistance. Funds for this program are distributed by the National Park Service and the program is administered at the state level by the DNR. Governmental agencies, educational institutions, and not-for-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status are eligible to participate.

### Hometown Indiana

The Hometown Indiana program is a state matching financial assistance program which provides grants for 50% of the cost of acquisition, stabilization, preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, or archaeological investigation of properties that are currently listed in the *Indiana State Register of Historic Sites and Structures*. Eligible projects include any "bricks and mortar" rehabilitation work which will stabilize significant historic resources listed in the *State Register*, as well as acquisition and archaeological investigation. Governmental agencies, educational institutions, and

not-for-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status are eligible to participate in the historic preservation component of the Hometown Indiana program.

### Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund

The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund is a state matching financial assistance program, which provides grants for 80% of historical/cultural projects along the historical transportation corridor of the Wabash River. Sites and properties that are listed in the *Indiana State Register of Historic Sites and Structures*, as well as museums and interpretive facilities are eligible for funding. Eligible applicants include local units of government in the 19 counties that lie along the Wabash River corridor and not-for-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

For more information on these grant programs (including project eligibility, current funding levels, and application procedures) contact the grants staff of the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology at (317) 232-1646 or visit [www.state.in.us/dnr/historic](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/historic).

## Division of Soil Conservation

### Lake and River Enhancement Program

The Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE) is a state grant and cost-share assistance program which provides technical and financial assistance to ensure the continued viability of Indiana's public-access lakes and streams. This program is part of the Clean Water Indiana initiative which strives to reduce soil erosion and resulting sedimentation, and contamination of streams and lakes by associated nutrients. Eligible projects include study, design and construction activities in a lake or stream (up to 100% grant) and land treatment practices in contributing watersheds (up to 80% grant). Eligible local entities include lake associations, planning and development organizations, and governmental units.

### Hoosier Riverwatch Program

The Hoosier Riverwatch Program is a statewide volunteer stream monitoring program that is operated in cooperation with Purdue University. As part of the program's educational mission, Hoosier Riverwatch provides equipment grants that serve as the basis of the water quality monitoring program.

For more information on these programs (including project eligibility, current funding levels, and application procedures) contact the staff of the Division of Soil Conservation at (317) 233-3870 or visit [www.state.in.us/dnr/soilcons](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/soilcons).

## Division of Forestry

### *Community Forestry Grant Programs*

#### Urban Forest Conservation Grants

The Urban Forest Conservation Grant Program is intended to help communities develop long-term programs to manage their urban forests. Matching grants are available to conduct any project that helps to improve and protect trees and other associated natural resources in urban areas. Community projects that target program development, planning and education are emphasized. Local municipalities, state agencies, and not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

#### Hometown Indiana

The Hometown Indiana Community Forestry Program provides state matching grants for planting trees on public property or rights-of-way in urban areas. Applicants may also propose other types of projects which help develop urban forestry programs as described in the Urban Forest Conservation program description above. Local municipalities and not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

#### Arbor Day Grant Program

Arbor Day Grants can be used to fund any type of activity which helps promote Arbor Day and the planting and care of urban trees. Activities could include Arbor Day celebrations, educational workshops, public awareness campaigns, printing and distribution of printed materials, etc. Local municipalities (including schools and libraries), state agencies, and not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

#### Tree Steward Program Grants

The Tree Steward Program is an educational training program which can be conducted in any county in Indiana. A county sponsor such as a city or county government, conservation group, or the county extension office can conduct the program. Matching grants are available to assist sponsors in starting county-wide Tree Steward programs and can be used to hire speakers and purchase supplies, equipment, and handouts.

For more information on these grant programs (including project eligibility, current funding levels, and application procedures) contact the urban forestry staff of the Division of Forestry at (317) 582-2410 or visit [www.state.in.us/dnr/forestry](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/forestry).

### *Forest Management Cost-Share Assistance Programs*

The **Forest Improvement Program** is concerned with the supply of wood products. The **Forest Stewardship Incentive Program** encourages stewardship on privately owned woodlands. The **Conservation Reserve Program** is intended to remove erodible land from row crop produc-

tion. Maximum refund rates range up to 50% of the cost as approved by a district forester. All programs require that you follow a plan approved by a district forester and that you participate in the program for at least 10 years. Practices covered under these programs include timber stand improvement, tree planting, critical area stabilization, and certain fencing and wildlife practices.

The **Forest Stewardship Challenge Grants Program** provides matching grants to encourage the retention and stewardship of Indiana's private forestlands. This grant program is open to all entities with the appropriate technical expertise to meet the goals of the Indiana Forest Stewardship Program. Sample projects include: development of local forestry cost-share programs, outreach to forest landowners, direct assistance to forest owners, and educational programs targeting those who impact rural forestlands.

For more information on these programs (including project eligibility and program procedures) contact the Division of Forestry at (317) 232-4107 or visit [www.state.in.us/dnr/forestry](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/forestry).

### Best Management Practices (BMP) Cost-Share Program

Logging operations that meet grant criteria are eligible for 75% reimbursement of the actual cost of carrying out the BMP's, not to exceed \$650.

For more information on this program contact the Improved Harvesting Practices Forester at (765) 342-4026.

### *Fire Fighting Assistance Programs*

The **Federal Excess Personal Property Program** provides excess equipment to rural fire departments through cooperative lease agreements. The **Volunteer Fire Assistance Program** provides matching grants to rural and volunteer fire departments to organize, train, or equip their departments. The **Fire Fighting Handtool Program** supplies fire departments with a complement of wildland firefighting handtools through a cooperative mutual aid agreement.

For more information on these programs contact Fire Control Headquarters at (765) 342-4701 or visit [www.state.in.us/dnr/forestry](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/forestry).

## **Division of Reclamation**

### **Partners for Reclamation**

The Partners for Reclamation program is a cooperative grant program that assists local landowners in restoring private lands that have been adversely impacted by abandoned coal mining operations. Funding is made available through DNR's Division of Reclamation and can cover up to 85% of the project cost. The program is operated in consultation with the county Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and the Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D).

### **Surface Mining and Reclamation Technology**

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Technology (SMART) program is a research grant program that was created to stimulate applied research and development projects related to underground and surface mine reclamation techniques and enhance the exchange of information between interested parties. Eligible research topics include erosion and sediment control, hydrologic investigations, groundwater, post-reclamation management, landform reconstruction- soil & overburden considerations, and air quality and blasting. The program is open to a wide range of applicants with the stipulation that the research must be conducted on Indiana mine sites and be directly applicable to Indiana coal mine reclamation.

For more information on these programs (including project eligibility and application procedures) contact the Division of Reclamation's Abandoned Mine Land Program at (800) 772-6463 or visit [www.state.in.us/dnr/reclamation](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/reclamation).

## Indiana Heritage Trust

The Indiana Heritage Trust program is a public/private conservation partnership which acquires state interests in real property that are examples of outstanding natural resources and habitats, or have historic or archaeological significance, or provide areas for preservation, conservation, or recreation. Funds for this program come from the purchase of Environmental License Plates, donations, and appropriations from the Indiana General Assembly. The program is administered by the Project and Trust Committees, which are made up of individuals from the Natural Resources Foundation, legislators, DNR Division Directors, and appointed citizens. Eligible projects include the acquisition of property for new and existing state parks, state forests, nature preserves, fish and wildlife areas, and outdoor recreation, historic, or archaeological sites. Project proposals generally come from two sources: (1) Divisions of the DNR, and (2) the general public which includes nonprofit organizations, local units of government, corporations, and individuals.

For more information on this program (including project eligibility and application procedures) contact the DNR Executive Office at (317) 232-4200 or visit [www.state.in.us/dnr/heritage](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/heritage).

## Indiana Natural Resources Foundation

The Indiana Natural Resources Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation established to protect and preserve important natural areas. The foundation accepts contributions of money or property to create and protect wildlife habitat and acquire land for state parks, historic sites, nature preserves, state forests, fish and wildlife areas and other properties from willing sellers. The foundation also supports projects to inform people about the importance of preserving and protecting Indiana's natural heritage. The foundation has taken a leading role in providing additional revenues for the popular Indiana Heritage Trust. Proceeds from the sale of environmental license plates are often matched by the foundation to complete the funding necessary to preserve natural areas throughout the state.

For more information about the foundation or how to become a partner in this conservation legacy contact the DNR Executive Office at (317) 232-4200 or visit [www.state.in.us/dnr/nrf](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/nrf).

## DNR Division Resources

The DNR is organized into three bureaus with 22 divisions responsible for a wide variety of programs and issues. DNR staff manage properties, administer regulatory programs, and provide services to protect and preserve Indiana's natural and cultural heritage.

[Note: The following descriptions of DNR divisions provide general information about their mission, areas of operation and program offerings that may be both informative and useful to recreation providers and users. Not all DNR Divisions are included, only those most relevant to the recreation audience.

The Indiana Recreation Guide, produced by the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs, includes a more comprehensive and detailed listing of available recreation opportunities and their locations.]

### Bureau of Lands, Cultural & Recreational Resources

#### Division of State Parks & Reservoirs

**Mission:** The mission of Indiana's state parks is to preserve, restore, manage and interpret the natural and cultural history of Indiana while providing quality recreational opportunities compatible with the resources.

While the Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs operate as one division, each has a unique mission. The reservoir properties provide recreation opportunities, resource management and flood control. The division offers 23 state parks, one state beach, and nine reservoirs for visitor's enjoyment.

#### Division of Forestry

**Mission:** The Division of Forestry promotes and practices good stewardship of natural, recreational and cultural resources on Indiana's public and private forest lands. This stewardship produces continuing benefits, both tangible and intangible, for present and future generations.

Trees- and the many things they provide to Indiana- are the root of the Division of Forestry. The division's diverse programs include state forests, nurseries, private forest land assistance, wildfire prevention and suppression, forest products utilization and marketing, forest health, urban and community forestry, licensed timber buyers, and forestry education (Project Learning Tree) and information. The division offers 11 state forests and three state recreation areas for visitor's enjoyment.

### Division of Outdoor Recreation

**Mission:** The Division of Outdoor Recreation will supply recreation information and opportunities through technical, planning, and financial assistance to improve the quality of life and enhance the state's natural resources for everyone.

The Division of Outdoor Recreation administers six grant programs: Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Indiana waters, Shooting Range, Hometown Indiana, and the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund. The division assists local park agencies with recreation planning activities and produces the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The division also maintains the 58-mile Knobstone Trail, administers the Natural, Recreational, and Scenic Rivers Program, and coordinates leasing and maintenance agreements for five snowmobile trails. Additionally, an area of reclaimed minelands, named Redbird, is currently being planned as an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) riding area.

### Division of Nature Preserves

**Mission:** The Division of Nature Preserves will identify, protect, and manage an array of nature preserves and natural areas in sufficient numbers and sufficient sizes to maintain viable examples of all of Indiana's natural communities. The division will also manage and maintain viable populations of endangered, threatened and rare species. These activities will be conducted for the benefit of the natural communities, their representative species as well as the benefit of future generations of mankind.

The Division of Nature Preserves is responsible for finding, protecting, and managing Indiana's natural areas. The division carries out this work with state, federal, and local agencies, conservation groups, and private landowners. Following inventories to locate Indiana's rarest features, nature preserves are acquired (primarily with partners) through the Indiana Heritage Trust; and they are permanently protected by being dedicated under state law. The preserves are managed to ensure that their natural features remain for future generations. The Natural Heritage Data Center manages information on Indiana's biological diversity, helping decision-makers avoid impacting Indiana's biological treasures, and helping DNR's partners set protection priorities. The division manages the state's system of dedicated nature preserves and they are open for the public to enjoy.

### Indiana State Museum & Historic Sites

**Mission:** The Division of State Museums and Historic Sites collects, preserves and interprets the natural and cultural history of Indiana for past, present, and future generations.

The division operates 14 State Historic Sites throughout Indiana and contracts for the joint operation of three other State Historic Sites. The sites range from Angel Mounds, the Native American pre-history site near Evansville, to the Grissom Air Museum in Peru. These sites include more than 100 historic structures. The division operates the Indiana State Museum, located in Indianapolis, which interprets many aspects of Indiana history from the ancient coal forests through the Civil war to Amish lifestyles and high school basketball.

### Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology

**Mission:** The Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology's mission is to make Indiana a better place to live by helping to preserve the man-made heritage of historic places and buildings which is Indiana's cornerstone.

The Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology works with other government agencies, local groups, and individuals throughout Indiana to promote the preservation and enhancement of Hoosier heritage. The division's core activities include: identifying historic places; processing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures; conducting protective reviews of undertakings that may affect historic resources; funding preservation and archaeology projects through competitive matching grants programs; administering tax incentives for rehabilitation projects; and a wide range of archaeological activities. The division also offers special publications and educational outreach programs.

### Division of Land Acquisition

The Division of Land Acquisition serves as the department's advisor on real estate matters. The division coordinates the acquisition and disposition of real property for the land holding divisions of DNR. The division works closely with property owners, units of local government, other state agencies, and non-governmental organizations with land protection and preservation.

### Bureau of Resource Management

#### Division of Fish and Wildlife

**Mission:** The Division of Fish and Wildlife will professionally manage Indiana's fish and wildlife for present and future generations, balancing ecological, recreational, and economic benefits.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife, committed to managing its namesake resources, serves many constituencies. The division provides Hoosiers hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing opportunities. Above all, the division strives to protect natural resources through management programs and research, environmental reviews, hunting and fishing regulations, landowner assistance, and land acquisition. The division also offers two environmental education programs—Project WILD and Go FishIN. The division operates and maintains 19 fish and wildlife areas and other properties totaling more than 12,000 acres for the public to enjoy.

#### Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology

**Mission:** The Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology will manage plant pests for the preservation and protection of cultivated and natural resources, facilitate trade, and enhance the quality of our environment.

The Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology is charged with the protection of Indiana's plant and apiary resources. To meet this charge, the division administers the Indiana plant health and apiary laws and provides certification of plants and plant commodities exported from Indiana to domestic and international markets. Also, the division surveys for pests not native to Indiana, and works to control pests that are not known to occur naturally or are not widely disseminated in Indiana. The division employs professionals with strong technical and scientific skills in order to meet the requirements of its charge.

#### Division of Law Enforcement

**Mission:** The Division of Law Enforcement will protect, as well as, encourage the wise use of all our natural resources, and will serve the citizenry of the State of Indiana through an aggressive educational campaign and a highly visible law enforcement presence.

The Division of Law Enforcement has the duty and responsibility to enforce all state laws. Indiana conservation officers concentrate their enforcement efforts on laws relating to fish, wildlife, boating, snowmobiling, and off-road vehicles. Also, conservation officers investigate incidents that result in pollution that threatens the environment and wildlife. Conservation officers patrol Indiana's lakes, rivers, reservoirs and rural areas around the clock. The conservation officer's job is ever-changing as one season gives way to the next.

## Bureau of Resource Regulation

### Division of Water

**Mission:** The Division of Water will ensure wise and beneficial use of the state's water resource to the benefit of all citizens now and into the future.

The Division of Water administers laws related to Indiana's surface and ground water resources. The division assesses the state's water resources, investigates water use conflicts, oversees flood control planning, coordinates floodplain management, regulates construction in and along waterways, and inspects dams and levees throughout the state.

### Division of Soil Conservation

**Mission:** Facilitate the protection, wise use, and enhancement of Indiana's soil and water resources by: (1) coordinating implementation of the state's Clean Water Indiana soil conservation/ water quality protection program, and (2) providing assistance to local soil and water conservation districts.

The Division of Soil Conservation partners with Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts to provide technical, educational, and financial assistance to citizens to solve erosion- and sediment-related problems affecting land and public waters. These concerns affect both agricultural land and areas undergoing development. The Lake and River Enhancement program specifically targets sediment and nutrient input impacting public lakes, rivers, and streams. The division also offers two water conservation education programs- Hoosier Riverwatch and Project WET.

### Division of Reclamation

**Mission:** The Division of Reclamation is dedicated to professional public service through effective administration of Indiana's mine reclamation laws. They are committed to ensuring optimum management of natural resources and public protection both during and after mining.

The Division of Reclamation, with offices in Indianapolis and Jasonville, administers programs responsible for regulating active coal mining and restoration of lands disturbed by coal extraction prior to law. The division is divided into two program areas: regulatory and restoration. The regulatory program oversees active coal mining operations and the reclamation of the land by the coal company after the extraction of coal. The restoration portion addresses areas disturbed by coal mining prior to 1977, improperly reclaimed and for which there is no continuing reclamation responsibility by a company.

## Division of Oil & Gas

***Mission:*** The Division of Oil & Gas promotes the responsible development of oil and natural gas while protecting the environment.

Indiana, who began producing oil and gas in the 1880s, created the Division of Oil and Gas in 1947. With offices in Indianapolis and Evansville, the division issues permits for and inspects approximately 10,000 wells involved in oil and natural gas production, natural gas storage and related waste injection. Laws and rules are designed to protect surface and underground waters and protect the rights of mineral owners. Division staff are prepared to respond to oil spills and other environmental and safety emergencies 24 hours a day. The division also works to clean-up old, abandoned oil and gas production sites.

DNR Division addresses and phone numbers are listed in the Environmental Yellow Pages on page 11.